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SB 2295 SD 1, HD 1
RELATING TO WILDLIFE

House Committee on
Finance
Public Hearing - March 24, 1988

By
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SB 2295 SD1, HD1, would establish a revolving wildlife fund within the State Treasury to receive monies collected from fees for hunting licenses, fines related to illegal possession of game and wildlife, or other monies collected as fines for violations of this chapter or Chapter 195D concerning wildlife conservation.

Our statement on this bill does not represent an institutional position of the University of Hawaii.

The use of funds collected in the course of enforcement of wildlife management programs for study, research, education, conservation and management of wildlife seems entirely reasonable and we support the intent of this bill. The wildlife revolving fund under the Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR) would have several advantages. First, it would permit carry over of the funds from year to year and thereby offer ongoing support of wildlife management programs. Second, under DLNR, the money may be more accessible in times of emergencies and thereby provide the opportunity for quicker response, such as in the event of a disease outbreak. Finally, having the fund housed close to the expending agency may be more efficient.

Our previous testimony given before the House Committee on Water, Land Use, Development and Hawaiian Affairs suggested adding the severability clause which is now included in this bill under section 6. We continue to support this amendment as it would address a concern raised by the Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR) at an earlier hearing. Their concern involved the possible conflict between the federally permitted uses of Pittman-Robertson funds and the proposed uses of the revolving fund for enforcement and management. However, we note that the severability clause in section 6 is not underscored, therefore, it will not become a part of the statute. We suggest that the severability clause, as written in section 6, be underscored and placed where appropriate in section 183D- Wildlife revolving fund; establishment.

A Unit of Water Resources Research Center

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